GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3347
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
SALINE LAND IN MAHARASHTRA
Y.G. MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that 24 thousand acres of land has become saline in Maharashtra itself due to excess use of water and fertilizers and failure of water and failure of water drainage system in watershed areas;

(b) if so, whether the Government are also aware that the salinity process of land is increasing by 10 percent per year especially in Maharashtra; and

(c) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to check the salinity process of land pertaining to Maharashtra?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): No scientific survey has been made to assess annual increment in land salinity. However soil salinity is increasing due to excessive irrigation, fertilizer application and lack of adequate drainage.

(c): The Government of Maharashtra has formulated reclamation programme of waterloggedsaline soils on the basis of irrigation sources.

1) Major & medium irrigation projects

The affected soils from the command areas of such irrigation projects are being reclaimed by laying of field channels and field drainage etc. Currently, the drainage scheme is being implemented by Research and Development Division of Irrigation Department.

2) Private & cooperative lift Irrigation schemes

The Government of Maharashtra has constituted Maharashtra Water ConservationCorporation. It is decided that, the drainage schemes for the affected soils in the command of Lift Irrigation Schemes to be planned and implemented by Maharashtra Water Conservation Board in association with Minor Irrigation (local sector) Department.